

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-27 and 29-37 currently are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 27 are currently amended. Claims 31-37 are new. No new matter has been added. Claims 4, 16 and 28 are cancelled by this Amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5-13 and 17-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ainsworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,935). Claim 28 has been cancelled by the Amendment, accordingly, the rejection as to that claim is moot. With respect to the rejection as to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse. The present invention claims, as amended, are distinguishable over Ainsworth et al. In the Ainsworth et al. patent, the longitudinal length of the v-shaped bar arm is the same as the longitudinal length of the linear bar arm the v-shaped bar arm is adjacent to. In contrast, as recited in claim 1 for example, the v-shaped bar arm has a shorter longitudinal length than the longitudinal length of the linear bar arm. Support for the claim can be found inter alia at page 9, lines 16-21 of the specification and in the drawings. Accordingly, the Ainsworth et al. reference does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Ainsworth et al. be withdrawn as to claims 1, 5-13, 17-27 and 29.

With respect to new claims 31-37, it is respectfully pointed out that these claims depend from independent claim 1, which, as argued above, is patentable in view of Ainsworth et al. Accordingly, new claims 31-37 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 14-16 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,935) in view of Shukov (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,055). Claims 4 and 16 have been cancelled by this Amendment, accordingly, the rejection as to those claims is moot. With respect to the rejection as to claims 2, 3, 14, 15 and 30, Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 2-3, 14-15 and 30, as

amended, depend from independent claims 1, 11 and 27, respectively, which recite a v-shaped bar arm having a shorter longitudinal length than the longitudinal length of the linear bar arm the v-shaped bar arm is adjacent to. Neither Ainsworth et al. nor Shukov disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, it is urged that the rejection of the claims in view of Ainsworth et al. and Shukov be withdrawn.

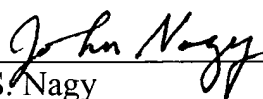
With respect to new claims 31-37, it is respectfully pointed out that these claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and thus include the feature of a v-shaped bar arm having a shorter longitudinal length than the longitudinal length of the linear bar arm the v-shaped bar arm is adjacent to. Neither Ainsworth et al. nor Shukov disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, new claims 31-37 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully urged that the claims are distinguishable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The undersigned can be reached at 310-824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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